

IN THE DRAWINGS:

The attached Replacement Sheet of drawings includes changes to Figures 8 and 9. In particular, element number 105 has been added in Figures 8 and 9 to indicate a link disposed between each of a plurality of levers 104 interconnecting the levers 104 one with the other to form a plate 102 of a monolithic construction. This sheet, which includes Figures 8 and 9, replaces the original sheet including Figures 8 and 9.

REMARKS

Applicant amended the Summary of the Invention section of the specification to coincide with the claim amendments. Further, the specification has been amended to include language as set forth in the claims as originally filed. The amendments to the specification are made in accord with MPEP 2163.06, which states that: "the claims as filed in the original specification are part of the disclosure and therefore, if an application as originally filed contains a claim disclosing material not disclosed in the remainder of the specification, the applicant may amend the specification to include the claimed subject matter. In re Benno, 768 F.2d 1340, 226 USPQ 683 (Fed. Cir. 1985)." No new matter is being introduced through the amendments to the specification.

The Applicant has also amended Figures 8 and 9. In particular, element number 105 has been added to indicate a link disposed between each of a plurality of levers 104 interconnecting the levers 104 one with the other to form a plate 102 of a monolithic construction.

After entry of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1 - 4, 6 - 7, and 9 - 34 will be pending in this application with claims 1 and 20 written in independent form. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 20, 21, and 23 have been amended to more clearly define the invention over newly uncovered prior art, which has been cited to the U.S. Patent Office in a supplemental IDS. Dependent claims 5 and 8 have been cancelled and dependent claim 34 has been added. No new matter is being introduced through the amendments to the claims.

In amending the claims, Applicant considered European Patent No. 0 321 335 and German Publication No. 38 39 787, which were cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application. The German Publication No. 38 39 787 appears to disclose an actuator 12 for moving a series of separate members 8 into engagement with a plurality of discs 5, 6. The European Patent No. 0 321 335 appears to disclose at least two levers 18 positioned between a sleeve 17 and a plurality of friction discs 13. None of these references teach or suggest a plate defining a plurality of levers each extending radially relative to an axis between a radially inward end to a

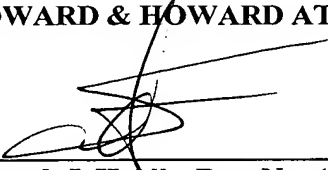
radially outward end and engaging the friction discs and integrally interconnected by links adjacent radially outward ends, as set forth in claims 1 and 20.

Consideration of the application as amended during examination of the application is requested. If the Examiner believes that prosecution of the application can be expedited by way of an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below. Although it is believed that no fee is due for the filing of this Amendment, the Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 08-2789 for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayments regarding this Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS

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Date



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the attached **Amendment, replacement sheet Fig 8 and Fig 9, and return post card** are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to the **Mail Stop Amendments, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450**, on **November 16, 2004**.

Brenda J. Hughes